



**Opening remarks at European Union's side event
“Briefing on regional consultations for the 2026 NPT Review Conference”**

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Viet, President of the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, for his leadership and commitment to an inclusive and transparent process.

I would also like to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Klement, European Union Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and to thank him for his continued engagement.

And of course, I want to express my gratitude to the European Union for its continued and generous support, which has made today's event and the regional consultations possible as you have heard. Your support reflects the European Union's longstanding commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to advancing nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Excellencies,

We meet at a crucial moment in the history of the Treaty and for its future.

The Review Conference is now underway, at a time when the international security environment is marked by heightened tensions, deepening divisions and a continued erosion of trust. Recent developments in the Middle East underscore the volatility of the current context and the urgency of sustained efforts to reduce risks and prevent escalation.

Against this backdrop, the NPT remains all the more indispensable. For more than five decades, it has served as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and a foundation for international peace and security.

Yet, as I have consistently underscored in my engagements with States Parties, the Treaty is under increasing strain.

In particular, the risk is not only of an inconclusive outcome at this Review Conference, but what that outcome could foreshadow: a gradual "hollowing out"

of the Treaty as confidence in its ability to deliver across its three pillars diminishes over time. A third consecutive Review Conference without a consensus outcome would have real consequences for the Treaty's implementation.

Since its indefinite extension in 1995, the credibility of the NPT has rested on the mutually reinforcing nature of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. But confidence in the Treaty depends on balanced progress across all three pillars, and preserving that balance is essential to its integrity.

Today's side event builds on the four regional consultations convened under the EU-supported process in Hanoi, Addis Ababa, Amman and Panama City.

Those consultations provided an important platform for open and inclusive dialogue. They not only reflected a wide range of views but also revealed areas of convergence. They also underscored that regional priorities – while not always identical – are shaped by the different security contexts, historical experiences and strategic perspectives of States Parties.

Across regions, States Parties underscored the urgency of advancing the implementation of existing commitments, the importance of maintaining balance across the three pillars and the need to restore trust in the Treaty and in the review process itself.

The value of these consultations lies precisely in their ability to bring forward regional priorities and practical ideas that can inform your deliberations here in New York. They have also shown that regional perspectives, while diverse, can make an important contribution to building broader understanding and identifying practical areas of convergence.

Today's discussion is not a continuation of preparatory dialogue, but a contribution to the ongoing work of the Review Conference. It offers an opportunity to consider how the insights generated through these consultations can help bridge differences and support an outcome that is both grounded in past commitments and responsive to current and emerging challenges.

Excellencies,

There is no single template for success at a Review Conference.

However, it is clear that success must – at a minimum – reinforce the Treaty, strengthen confidence among States Parties and demonstrate that multilateral cooperation remains capable of delivering meaningful results even in a difficult security environment.

This will require political will, flexibility and a shared sense of responsibility. It will also require a readiness to engage constructively, to listen to differing perspectives and to identify areas where common ground can be found.

In this context, the work of this Conference goes beyond the negotiation of text and is directly linked to sustaining the credibility and integrity of the NPT itself.

My Office, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, remains fully committed in its role as Secretariat to supporting the President and all States Parties in their efforts to achieve a successful outcome.

We hope that today's exchanges will contribute to that objective by helping to translate regional perspectives into practical pathways forward.

I thank you very much for your attention.
